THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per information available, a group of farmers from Vadakkencherry in Palakkad district of Kerala have switched over to organic paddy cultivation.

(b) and (c) 13 farmers have switched over to organic paddy cultivation in 18.74 ha. The group was registered with Indian Organic Certification Agency (INDOCERT), Thottumugham (Kerala) during April, 2008 for organic certification. While the cost of production of organic rice is more during initial years of conversion, the yield gap narrows down in 2 to 3 years and comparable yields can be obtained thereafter. At that stage the cost of organic paddy is comparable to conventional paddy.

(d) A proposal has been formulated to permit export of certified organic non-basmati rice subject to a quantitative ceiling.

Devastation in agricultur due to recent floods in South India

153. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to study the devastation in agriculture due to recent floods in Southern States especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for providing compensation to the farmers affected by the recent floods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned in the matter and necessary information is being collected from them.

Steps to boost production of forthcoming winter crops

154. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of estimated production of Kharif crops this year *vis-a-vis* premonsoon estimation;

(b) the details of regions where Kharif crops have proved to be absolute failure due to the monsoon failure, indicating estimated volume of crop loss and those areas which got late monsoon indicating corresponding volume loss;

(c) whether loss of Kharif crops is expected to be off-set by yields of winter crops due to *inter alia* substantial rainfall albeit late; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure larger production of winter crops especially in areas suffered by loss of Kharif crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the 1st Advance Estimates, production of Kharif foodgrain crops in the country is estimated at 96.63 million tonnes against a target of 125.15 million tonnes for the year 2009-10.

(b) The major loss due to delayed/ deficient monsoon in production of Kharif foodgrains has been in the States of Uttar Pradesh (58.2 lakh tonnes), Rajasthan (42.1 lakh tonnes), Andhra Pradesh (33.8 lakh tonnes), Bihar (25.8 lakh tonnes), Jharkhand (20.2 lakh tonnes) and Madhya Pradesh (11.4 lakh tonnes).

The State with major loss in production of Kharif oilseeds are Madhya Pradesh (13.5 lakh tonnes), Andhra Pradesh (4.9 lakh tonnes), Karnataka (3.6 lakh tonnes) and Rajasthan (3.3 lakh tonnes).

(c) and (d) Government has taken several initiatives for supplementing the efforts of States to increase the production of winter crops which *inter-alia* include timely availability of critical inputs, marketing support, providing credit etc. Early rabi planning for capitalizing the soil moisture of late rains (September and to Ist week of October) was facilitated by the Ministry by extending expert support to States. Planning for additional areas under Boro/summer rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals for increased production in rabi is finalized. Measures for tie-up for input supply, advance financial allocation and releases to the States for timely completion of Rabi operations are ensured through conferences and interactions with the States.

Crop loss due to floods

†155. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the number of flood affected States during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total quantity of crops lost, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the grants sanctioned to every State for compensating the loss of crops during the above-said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned in the matter and necessary information is being collected from them.

Central assistance to Karnataka to tackle crops loss

156. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss of crops suffered by Karnataka this year due to heavy late monsoon rains;

(b) the Central assistance sought by the State Government for the relief of the farmers who have suffered heavy losses; and

(c) the assistance, so far, given by the Centre for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Due to heavy rains/floods during the month of September and October, 2009 in the State of Karnataka, a total area affected during Kharif is reported at 18.95 lakh hectares and in Rabi 2.97 lakh hectares.